

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 XMB-02
/102 W

-----180638Z 124008 /12

R 180007Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2931
INFO AMCONSUL MONTERREY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10021

DEPARTMENT PASS EXIM FOR CRAFTON

E.O. 11652: AGDS (12-31-77)
TAGS: ENRG, EALR, BENC, MX
SUBJECT: STATUS OF GAS PIPELINE DESIGN

REF: MEXICO 9707

1. PETOFF DISCUSSED STATUS OF PIPELINE WITH AMERICAN ENGINEER INVOLVED IN ITS DESIGN. COMPLETION OF ENGINEERING STUDIES WILL TAKE ABOUT THREE MORE MONTHS DEPENDING ON THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH PEMEX, TENNECO, AND TEXAS EASTERN (TETCO) CAN COLLECT THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO DESIGN IT. PEMEX IS DOING ITS BEST TO PROVIDE DATA AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE BUT MUCH OF WHAT IS NEEDED IS NOT YET AVAILABLE SINCE NO PREVIOUS STUDIES HAVE BEEN MADE OF THE BULK OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE.

2. THE PIPELINE WILL RUN FROM CACTUS, CHIAPAS, TO CORDOBA AND POZA RICA, VERACRUZ, THEN DIRECTLY UP THE COAST TO
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REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS. CONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN WITHIN A MONTH ON CERTAIN SEGMENTS (SPREADS) IN THE SOUTHERN THIRD OF THE LINE. PEMEX HAS GAS LINES OPERATING IN THE AREA SO INFORMATION ON GEOGRAPHY, WEATHER AND SOIL CONDITIONS, AND OPERATING EXPERIENCE IS READILY AVAILABLE.

3. FROM CORDOBA, NORTH, CONSIDERABLY MORE DATA WILL HAVE

TO BE GATHERED AND ROUTES SURVEYED. SUCH FACTORS AS SEASONAL WEATHER PATTERNS, SOIL CONDITIONS, TOPOGRAPHY, AND THE AMOUNT OF BLASTING NECESSARY WILL BE THE PRIMARY PHYSICAL FACTORS IN DETERMINING THE EXACT ROUTING OF THE LINE AND WHETHER IT CAN BE COMPLETED BY PEMEX'S TARGET DATE OF JANUARY 1979.

4. ACTUAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR THE PIPELINE WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL ENGINEERING DESIGN HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND APPROVED BY PEMEX. WHILE THE APPROXIMATE NEED FOR PIPE CAN BE ESTIMATED WITH REASONABLE ACCURACY, FINAL FIGURES ON QUANTITY AND SPECIFICATIONS CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL THE DESIGN IS COMPLETE. ACCORDING TO THE ENGINEER, PEMEX WAS PROBABLY JUST FISHING FOR COST INFORMATION WHEN IT REQUESTED BIDS ON PIPE REPORTED IN REFTEL. PEMEX COULD TAKE INITIAL DELIVERIES IN AUGUST AND BEGIN APPLYING NECESSARY CONCRETE COATINGS.

5. INFORMATION ON COMPRESSORS AND DIRECT DRIVE TURBINES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL BASIC CONFIGURATION OF PUMPING STATIONS HAS BEEN DETERMINED. SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPRESSORS FOR GAS GATHERING SYSTEM ARE PROBABLY CORRECT SINCE PEMEX CAN CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF POWER NEEDED TO TRANSPORT THE GAS FROM THE PRODUCING FIELDS TO THE PIPELINE HEAD WITH RELATIVE EASE.

6. INFORMATION ON THE ABILITY OF MEXICAN FIRMS TO CONSTRUCT SOME OR ALL OF THE SPREADS IS NOT AVAILABLE. MEXICAN FIRMS DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT CAPABLE OF HANDLING 48-INCH
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PIPE BUT SOME SURPLUS EQUIPMENT MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE ALYESKA PIPELINE. TENNECO, TETCO AND PEMEX WILL NEED TO CONDUCT A DETAILED SURVEY OF MEXICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE ABLE TO HANDLE THE JOB. FOREIGN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES MAY STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF LANDING A MAJOR SHARE OF THE PROJECT.

7. SKILLED LABOR MAY ALSO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. WELDERS ACCUSTOMED TO WORKING WITH LARGE DIAMETER PIPE CAN BE QUICKLY TRAINED TO HANDLE 48 INCH. BUT THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH AVAILABLE IN MEXICO WITHOUT DENUDING ALL OTHER PIPELINE PROJECTS. THE POSSIBLE SCARCITY SUFFICIENT MANPOWER WITH THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IS ANOTHER AREA THE ENGINEERS MUST EXAMINE.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT. THE HIGH PRIORITY PEMEX IS GIVING TO THIS PROJECT IS VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN PROCUREMENT AND POSSIBLY CONSTRUCTION BEFORE A FINAL DESIGN IS COMPLETED. SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED SEVERAL

TIMES HOW IMPRESSED HE WAS BY THE COMPETENCE OF THE PEOPLE
PEMEX HAS ASSIGNED TO IT, ANOTHER INDICATOR OF ITS IMPOR-
TANCE TO THEM. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NATURAL GAS, GAS PIPELINES, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO10021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-0478
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770642/aaaablah.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3a6d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 9707
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2104541
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF GAS PIPELINE DESIGN
TAGS: ENRG, EALR, BENC, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3a6d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009